

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (original) A device for placing a reinforcing tape (4) in a tissue of the human body, comprising an introducer (1) which has:

an elongated flexible body (2),
at each of both ends of the body, pulling means (5),
between both ends, a cavity (3) for receiving the tape (4),

and, at the cavity, means for cutting (7) the body (2) into two portions separable by pulling exerted on the pulling means (5),

characterized in that the cutting means (7) comprise at least one aperture (8, 8₁) provided in that wall of the cavity (3) and intended for the passage of a cutting tool.

2. (original) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the aperture (8) constituent of the cutting means (7), extends transversally to the longitudinal axis (Δ) of the cavity (3) and affects more than half of the circumference of the wall of the cavity (3).

3. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the aperture (8) constituent of the cutting means (7), is adapted for allowing the placement of the tape (4) in the cavity.

4. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterized in that the cutting means (7) comprise at least two apertures (8₁) positioned facing each other.

5. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized in that the wall of the cavity has a series of perforations (P) for sterilization.

6. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that the pulling means (5) comprise semi-rigid needles integral with the ends of the elongated body (2).

7. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a tape positioned inside the cavity and being free.

8. (currently amended) The device according to ~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises an elongated perforator guide (10) or trocar, an end of which is intended to be introduced into the body of a patient and the other end of which (13) is provided with a handle (14).

9. (original) The device according to claim 8, characterized in that the perforator guide (10) has an arcuate shape in a plane.

10. (original) The device according to claim 9, characterized in that the arcuate portion (15) of the perforator extends over an angular sector larger than 140° and preferably less than 180° and more preferably between 150° and 170°.

11. (currently amended) The device according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, characterized in that the arcuate portion (15) of the perforator guide (10) then has a radius of curvature (R) between 30 mm and 60 mm, and preferably between 40 mm and 50 mm for the portion of the perforator guide extending between the handle and the end intended to be introduced into the body of the patient.

12. (original) The device according to claim 8, characterized in that the perforator guide (10) has a helicoidal shape at its end (17) opposite to the handle (14) or distal end.

13. (original) The device according to claim 12, characterized in that the perforator guide (10) has the shape of a portion of a helicoidal coil (17) extending over an angle between 180° and 360°, and preferably between 255° and 270°.

14. (original) The device according to claim 13, characterized in that the coil (17) of the perforator guide has a radius of curvature between 20 mm and 40 mm with a pitch between 15 mm and 25 mm.

15. (currently amended) The device according to ~~any of claims 8 to 14~~ claim 8, characterized in that it further comprises a removable tubular sleeve (50) with a complementary shape to that of the perforator guide, intended to be engaged onto the perforator guide and to remain in the body of the patient after removing the perforator guide (10) so as to define a tunnel for the passage of pulling means (5) of the introducer (1).

16. (original) The device according to claim 15, characterized in that the tubular sleeve (50) has a length larger than the useful length (Lu) of the perforator guide and comprises a side aperture (52) for placing the perforator guide, the side aperture (52) being located at a distance from a free end of the sleeve (50), less than or equal to the useful length (Lu) of the perforator guide.